

To: Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and the honored members of the government oversight and reform committee.

My name is Lynne Smith. I reside in Mansfield, Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to express my testimony in favor of SB22 and to express how Governor DeWine's orders related to Covid have negatively impacted my life.

As far as the science is concerned I've failed to see legitimate research verifying that masks make a difference in the spread of a virus. Were men able to invent a mask with weave tight enough to contain virus microns it would also keep us from obtaining enough oxygen to sustain consciousness and life. How long has there been research being done to find a mask that would protect health care workers from influenza viruses?

Even a double thickness cloth mask worn for even short periods saps my energy (I am usually abounding in energy), and causes me to feel like I am smothering. Actually, I feel smothered within a few minutes in the mask. However, I would gladly endure my discomforts were I convinced I was truly protecting other people or myself. So far I've not seen such evidence. I suspect there will be long term effects of increasing our carbon dioxide intake while decreasing our oxygen intake, as well as rebreathing germs that are caught in the mask. In fact, I have seen some research evidence of that detriment.

Obviously, it has been a hardship to have my family split between the fearful and the less fearful, those who believe all the rhetoric and those who do not. It has been hard to be cut off from our church family and the opportunity to worship—which is a sustaining reality for many of us. It has been hard to see science being thrown to the wind in favor of a political agenda. It has taken men a long time to get to the point of certain knowledge and now fear and agendas makes us prefer lies over reality. That is a horribly dangerous trajectory as history reveals. That reality creates anxiety—much greater than the fear of a virus that kills so few in comparison to many other things—including lies.

Our constitution and Bill of Rights, when followed, protect the public from political overreach by tyrants. That has largely been ignored over the past year. I would greatly appreciate your doing what you can to reinstitute the power of the US Constitution in our government including our state government. We are supposed to be a government “of the people, by the people and for the people.” I think SB22 will help to do that.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lynne Smith, Mansfield, Ohio